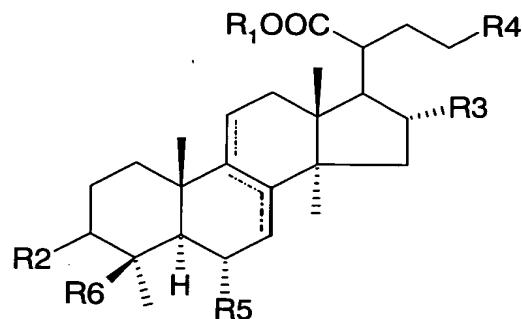


1

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

2       1. A pharmaceutical composition capable of enhancing immunity  
3       of a mammal comprising a therapeutically effective amount of lanostane  
4       having the following chemical formula (I) as an active ingredient, in  
5       admixture of a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent for the active  
6       ingredient:

7



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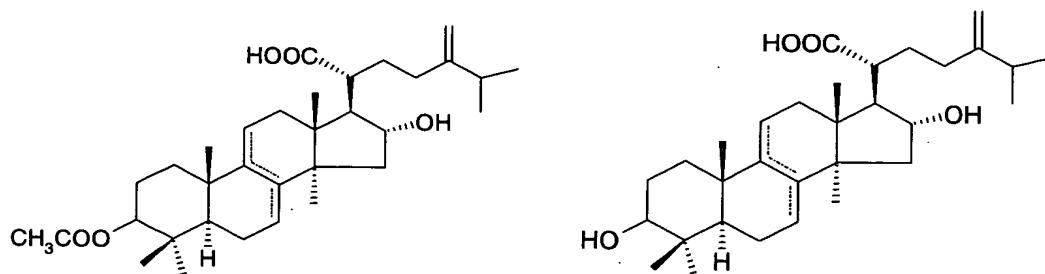
(I)

9       wherein R<sub>1</sub> is either H or CH<sub>3</sub>; R<sub>2</sub> is OCOCH<sub>3</sub>, C=O or OH; R<sub>3</sub> is H or OH;  
10      R<sub>4</sub> is -C(=CH<sub>2</sub>)-C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>R<sub>a</sub>, wherein R<sub>a</sub> is H or OH, or -CH=C(CH<sub>3</sub>)-R<sub>b</sub>,  
11      wherein R<sub>b</sub> is CH<sub>3</sub> or CH<sub>2</sub>OH; R<sub>5</sub> is H or OH; and R<sub>6</sub> is CH<sub>3</sub> or CH<sub>2</sub>OH.

12

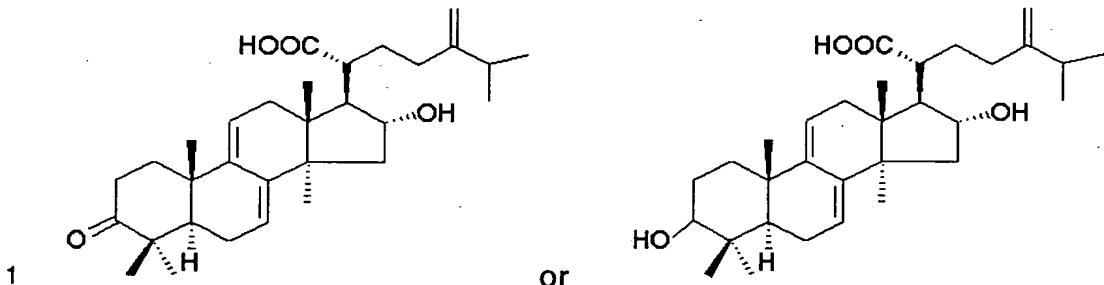
13       2. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, wherein  
14       the lanostane (I) is

15



16

17



2

3                   3. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1  
4 comprising 0.1-60% of the lanostane (I) by weight of the composition.

5

6                  4. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, which is  
7 orally administered.

8

9               5. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 1, wherein  
10 said mammal is a human.

11

12           6. A *Poria* extract capable of enhancing immunity of a mammal  
13 comprising 5-60% of a lanostane (I) as defined in claim 1 by weight of the  
14 extract, and being substantially devoid of secolanostane.

15

16           7. The *Poria* extract according to claim 6, which is prepared by a  
17 method comprising the following steps:

18

19 *Poria cocos* (Schw) Wolf by water, methanol, ethanol, or a mixed solvent  
20 thereof;

2

c) introducing the resulting concentrated substance from

- 1     into a silica gel column;
- 2                 d) eluting the silica gel column with an eluent having a low
- 3     polarity, and collecting the resulting eluate;
- 4                 e) concentrating the eluate to form a concentrated eluate.

5

6                 8. The *Poria* extract according to claim 7, wherein the  
7     concentrated eluate from step e) has a chromatographic value, Rf, not  
8     less than 0.1 in accordance with a thin layer chromatography, which is  
9     developed by a mixed solvent of dichloromethane : methanol = 96:4 and is  
10   detected by an ultraviolet lamp and iodine vapor.

11

12                 9. The *Poria* extract according to claim 7, wherein the extraction  
13   in step a) is carried out by using 95% ethanol.

14

15                 10. The *Poria* extract according to claim 7, wherein the  
16   concentrated substance resulted from step b) is further extracted with a  
17   two-phase solvent containing methanol and n-hexane in a volumetric ratio  
18   of 1:1, a methanol layer is separated from the two-phase solvent  
19   extraction mixture, and the methanol layer is concentrated to form a  
20   concentrate, which is used as a feed to the silica gel column in step c).

21

22                 11. The *Poria* extract according to claim 7, wherein the low  
23   polarity eluent is a mixed solvent containing dichloromethane and  
24   methanol in a volumetric ratio of 96.5:3.5.

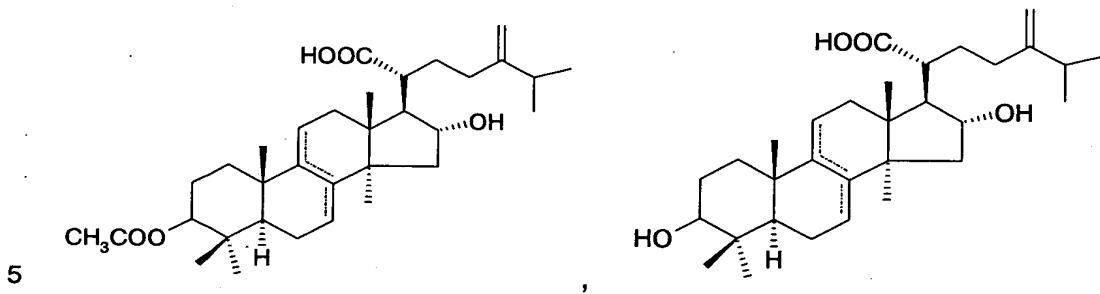
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26                 12. The *Poria* extract according to claim 6 comprising 10-20% of

1 the lanostane (I).

2

3        13. The *Poria* extract according to claim 6, wherein the lanostane  
4 (I) is



or

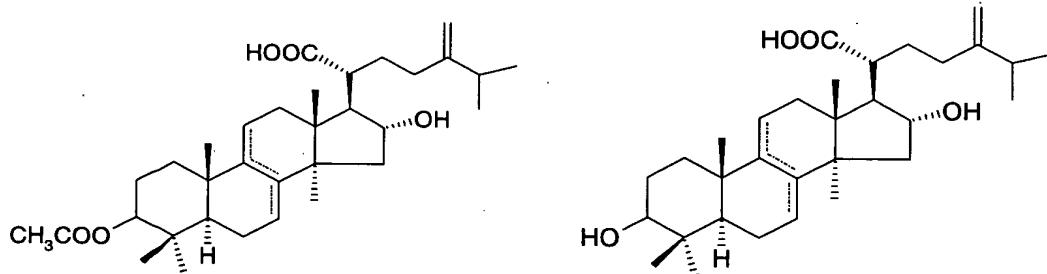
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9        14. A method of enhancing immunity of an individual comprising  
10 administering to the individual a therapeutically effective amount of the  
11 lanostane (I) as defined in claim 1.

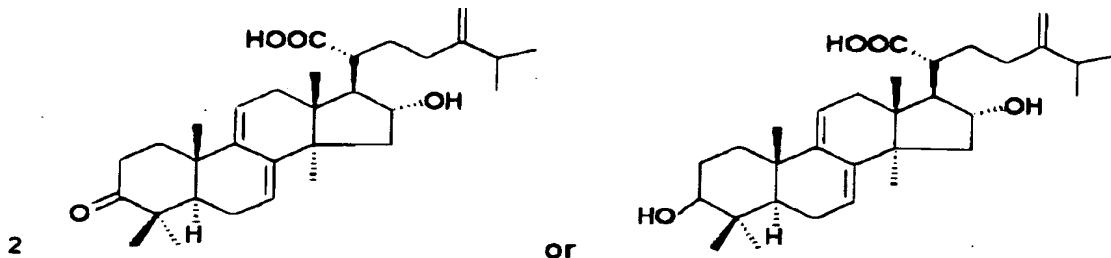
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13        15. The method according to claim 1, wherein the lanostane (I) is

14



1



**16. A method of enhancing immunity of an individual comprising  
administering to the individual a therapeutically effective amount of the  
Poria extract as claimed in claim 6.**

**17. A method of enhancing immunity of an individual comprising  
administering to the individual a therapeutically effective amount of the  
Poria extract as claimed in claim 7.**

**18. A method of enhancing immunity of an individual comprising  
administering to the individual a therapeutically effective amount of th  
Poria extract as claimed in claim 8.**

**19. A method of enhancing immunity of an individual comprising  
administering to the individual a therapeutically effective amount of the  
Poria extract as claimed in claim 9.**

**20. A method of enhancing immunity of an individual comprising  
administering to th individual a therapeutically effectiv amount of the  
Poria extract as claim d in claim 10.**

1

2           **21. A method of enhancing immunity of an individual comprising**  
3     **administering to the individual a therapeutically effective amount of th**  
4     ***Poria* extract as claimed in claim 11.**

5

6           **22. A method of enhancing immunity of an individual comprising**  
7     **administering to the individual a therapeutically effective amount of th**  
8     ***Poria* extract as claimed in claim 12.**

9

10          **23. A method of enhancing immunity of an individual comprising**  
11     **administering to the individual a therapeutically effective amount of the**  
12     ***Poria* extract as claimed in claim 13.**